

23 March 2005

**Dennis Carmichael FASLA, President
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street NW
Washington DC 20001**

Re: Letter of Support for Laurie Olin, ASLA Design Medal

Dear Dennis,

I am pleased to write in strong support of the nomination Laurie Olin for the ASLA Design Medal.

I can't imagine a debate about this nominee. Laurie is a giant to a generation of us.

Many of us first became aware of his unusual breadth and depth in the early 1980s when he showed up at Penn and then Harvard—long after he had done incredible things, both design and advocacy, in Seattle under Rich Haag's tutelage, in England and Rome, and in Ed Barnes' office in New York. Already a great career. The eighties work was impressive for its commitment to design and investigation at a time when great work was rare. And for it to be combined with serious teaching and academic leadership: that was something not seen in a very long time, except for perhaps Sasaki and Pete Walker. Really rare.

Two decades later, we see a body of work that is widely respected around the world. Laurie's campus work, park work, urban infrastructure work, institutional gardens, have all become notable and have become a body of reference for many practitioners. He is a dependable source and a hard act to follow.

On his generosity: he was a great teacher to me twenty years ago, and continued to be one to me long after I had graduated. He is a born mentor. His books and essays, his work with the board of the American Academy, the Cultural Landscape Foundation, all these things are the marks of a reflective and generous practitioner and teacher. Would that we could have one of this specimen in every school and every chapter. He is a prize.

Don't even hesitate.

Sincerely,



**Gary R. Hilderbrand FASLA FAAR
Principal
Adjunct Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture, Harvard Design School**